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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An apparatus for adaptive modulation, comprising:

a one-bit modulator for generating a binary output signal from an analog input signal; and

a multi-bit adapter for generating a scaling signal for scaling a step-size of the modulator.

- 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the adapter includes a companded differential pulse code modulator (DPCM).
 - 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the adapter includes a logarithm term block for companding an absolute value of a filtered error signal, the companded DPCM for modulating an output of the logarithm term block, and an exponential term block for expanding an output of the companded DPCM.
 - 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the modulator comprises:
 a summing junction for comparing an analog input signal x(n) to an encoding signal v(n) to generate an error signal e(n) representing a difference between the analog input signal x(n) and the encoding signal v(n);
 - a filter for filtering the error signal e(n) to generate a signal p(n);
 - a quantizer for converting the signal p(n) into a binary output signal y(n);
 - a multiplier for multiplying the analog output signal y(n) by a scaling signal d(n) output by the adapter to generate an encoding signal v(n); and
 - a delay for the dealying the encoding signal v(n) to generate a delayed encoding signal v(n-1).

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5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the adapter produces both the scaling signal d(n), which is an approximation of the absolute value of the signal p(n), and a binary sequence signal q(n) from which the scaling signal d(n) can be regenerated.

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- 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the adapter is used in an adaptive sigma-delta modulator.
- 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the adapter is used in an adaptive delta modulator.
 - 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the adapter is used as a companded delta modulator.
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- 9. An apparatus for adaptive demodulation, comprising:

a multi-bit adapter for receiving a binary sequence signal q(n) from an adapter of an adaptive modulation apparatus and for generating a scaling signal d(n) in response thereto;

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a multiplier for multiplying a binary output signal y(n) received from a modulator of the adaptive modulation apparatus by the scaling signal d(n) to generate an encoding signal v(n); and

a low-pass filter for receiving the encoding signal v(n) and for generating a signal $\hat{x}(n)$, which is a re-creation of an analog input signal x(n) to the modulator of the adaptive modulation apparatus.

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10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the adapter includes a companded differential pulse code modulator (DPCM).

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11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the adapter includes a logarithm term block for companding an absolute value of a filtered error signal, the companded DPCM for modulating an output of the logarithm term block, and an exponential term block for expanding an output of the companded DPCM.

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- 12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the adapter is used in an adaptive sigma-delta modulator.
- 13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the adapter is used in an adaptive delta modulator.
 - 14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the adapter is used as a companded delta modulator.